



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E, November 19, 2020
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Commission Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

I. Introduction

During this agenda item the Commission will be asked to consider three candidates for appointment to the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC). This is an Action Item.

II. Background

The Commission's appointed Groundwater Advisory Committee is a nine-member committee charged with certain duties pursuant to ORS 536.090. These duties include: (1) advice on all matters relating to rules for the development, securing, use, and protection of groundwater; (2) licensing and examination of well constructors; and (3) review of the proposed expenditures of start card fee revenue.

The Commission's rules under OAR Chapter 690, Division 235, provide a process to identify GWAC candidates, prescribe a range of categories of expertise that may be represented on GWAC, and allow appointments for up to three years. The rules result in the expiration of three appointments each year, thus staggering membership. Any mid-term vacancy is filled for the remainder of the term. Each year, staff seeks Commission action on GWAC appointments and/or reappointments. The Commission has directed that appointed members be limited to two terms.

GWAC members represent a range of interests and expertise, including at least three members from the well drilling industry and the remainder representing interests in hydrogeology, irrigation, local government, Indian Tribes, environment, public health, industry, commerce, water project development, watershed enhancement, instream flow, agriculture, well pump installation, exempt ground water users, or any other category with a groundwater interest (OAR 690-235-0005).

The current members of the committee are listed in the following table. The expiring positions are highlighted and the Department thanks these Committee members for their service.

Name	City of Residence	Category Represented	Term
Chad Courtney	Pendleton	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2022
John Stadel	Newberg	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2020
Kenneth Masten	Bonanza	Groundwater Irrigator	1st Term Expires 11/30/2021
Mark Owens	Crane	Groundwater Irrigator	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2022
Marshall Gannett	Portland	Hydrogeologist	1st Term Expires 11/30/2020
Phil Brown	Beavercreek	Hydrogeologist	1st Term Expires 11/30/2021
Scott Kruger	Corvallis	Local Government	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2020
Susan Baker	Medford	Local Government	1st Term Expires 11/30/2022
Trent Castner	Portland	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	1st Term Expires 11/30/2021

III. Discussion

The terms for John Stadel, Marshall Gannett, and Scott Kruger expire on November 30, 2020. Mr. Stadel and Mr. Kruger are completing their second terms and have reached their limitation of service on the committee. Mr. Gannett is completing his first term and has submitted a letter of interest to serve a second term with the committee.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has three open positions that must be filled. In order to comply with statute, one of the open positions must be filled by a person who is actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry. The other two positions may represent other groundwater interests, expertise, or geography.

Notice of the recruitment was sent to individuals on the GWAC and Commission mailing lists, posted to the Department's webpage, and distributed to members of professional and trade organizations. The notices advised interested parties of the committee vacancies and asked those wishing to be considered for a position on GWAC notify the Director by October 22 to ensure consideration for appointment in November 2020. The Director received five applications for membership by this date. The Department reached out to field staff and other local contacts to solicit references for the applicants.

The Department recommends Marshall Gannett, Floyd Sippel, and Richard Smith for the open positions. Terms for these three members would begin December 1, 2020 and continue through November 30, 2023.

Short biographies for the three recommended individuals are as follows:

Marshall Gannett is a retired USGS Research Hydrologist. Mr. Gannett's career has largely focused on understanding Oregon's groundwater resources, including work on several of the cooperative USGS/OWRD groundwater basin studies published in the last two decades. He was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Scientist Award by the Oregon Academy of Science, which noted in its proceedings, "...his scientific work has transformed understanding of groundwater systems and furnished tools to improve management of scarce water resources. Gannett's contributions have had impact on the lives of millions of people across vast tracks of land in the region."

Floyd Sippel is a licensed water well and monitoring well driller with 46 years of drilling experience. He founded Sippel Well Drilling, becoming a bonded contractor based in Salem in 1988. Mr. Sippel is an active member of the Oregon Ground Water Association and served on OGWA's Board of Directors for 20 years. He has also volunteered his time to serve on the OWRD Continuing Education Committee, rules advisory committees for past Department rulemaking efforts, and at various community and school education events.

Richard Smith owns a family farm growing hazelnuts and timber in the Cooper-Bull Mountain Critical Groundwater Area. His property is served by four exempt-use wells, of which he drilled three, and he has monitored static water levels at these wells for a number of years. He was a realtor for 20 years in addition to operating his family farm. Mr. Smith has volunteered his time with several community organizations including the local school board and local citizen participation organization. He is interested in representing the interests of exempt well owners on GWAC.

IV. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Marshall Gannett, Floyd Sippel, and Richard Smith to GWAC terms beginning December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2023.
2. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments, which reflects a different set of interest categories and/or geographic locations.

V. Recommendation

The Director recommends the Commission select Alternative 1 and appoint the recommended slate of candidates for the stated term.

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